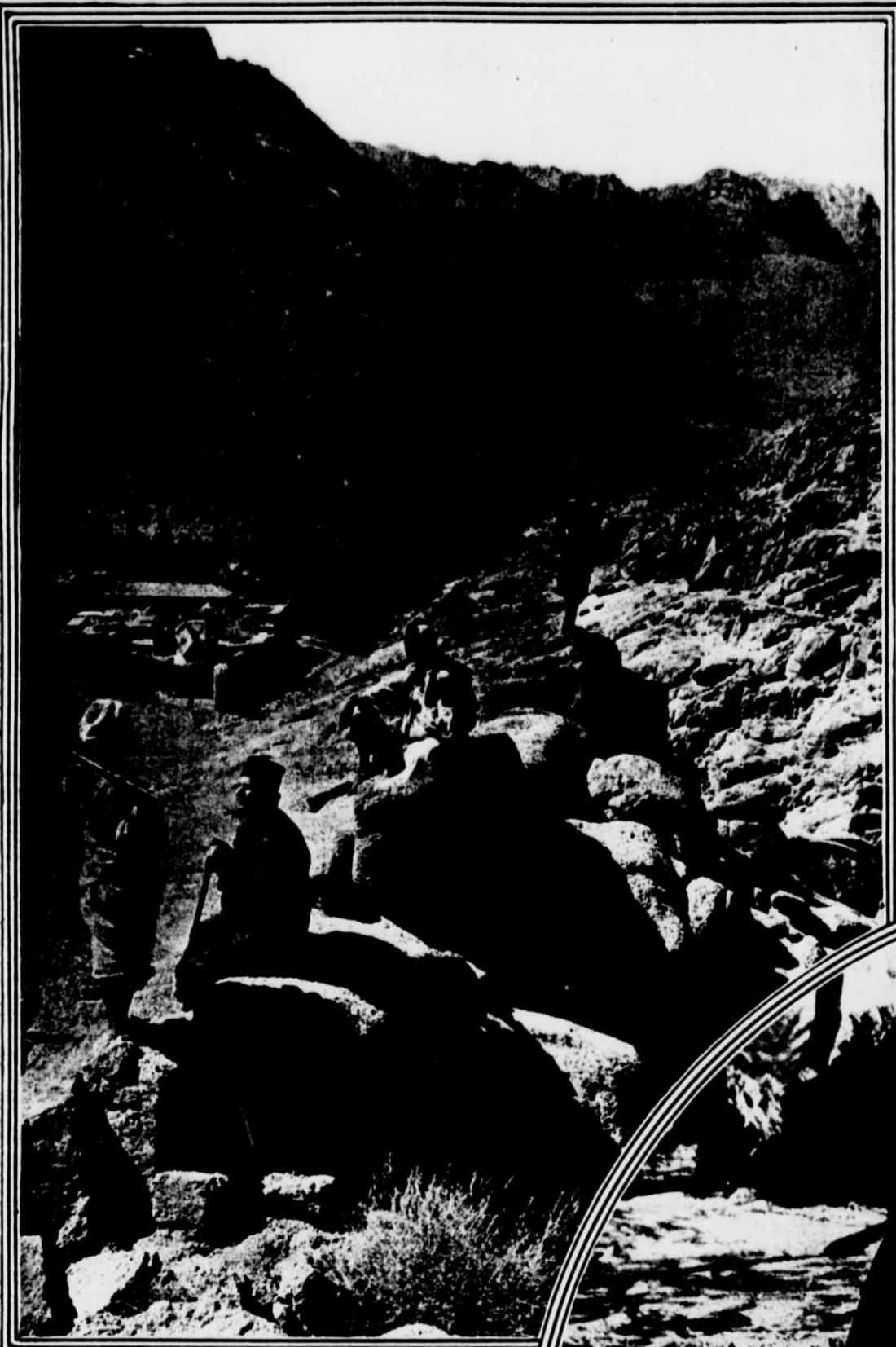


# LAND OF BIBLE PATRIARCHS AS IT IS TO-DAY



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MOUNT SINAI MONASTERY AND PLAIN OF ASSEMBLAGE.

The monastery was erected and is maintained in remembrance of when the children of Israel assembled at one of the most momentous periods of their history as a people. Those who have studied the Israelitish race most deeply are those who insist there are evidences to-day proving this spot to be the real "place of assemblage."



CHAPEL OF ST. CATHERINE ON TOP OF JEBEL.

This chapel, named after one of the most venerated saints, is the Mecca of thousands of devout religious folk who make the Asiatic trip year after year in order to kneel at a place held by the patriarchs of old to be most holy. Although the district is now inhabited by a people far different from those who lived there when it was anciently famous, the establishment of the chapel and the yearly pilgrimages have induced in the native dwellers a consideration of the spot regardless of variation in religious belief.



WHERE WATER GUSHED FORTH AT MOSES'S COMMAND.

"And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

"Take the rod and assemble the people together, thou and Aaron, thy brother, and speak to the rock before them, and it shall yield waters. And when thou hast brought forth water out of the rock all the multitude and their cattle shall drink.

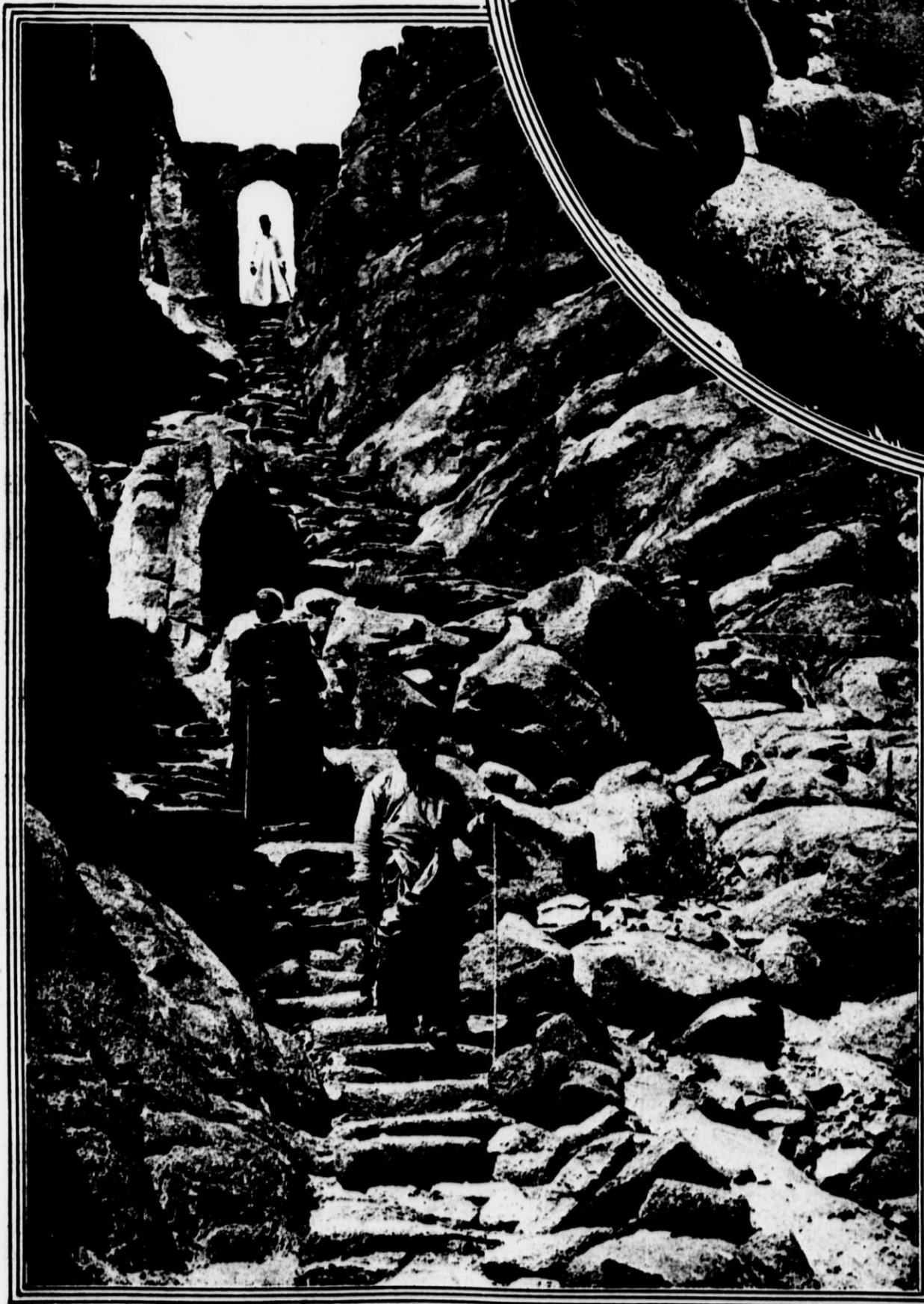
"Moses therefore took the rod, which was before the Lord as he had commanded him."

"And having gathered together the multitude before the rock he said to them: Hear, ye rebellious and incredulous, can we bring forth water out of this rock?"

"And when Moses had lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his rod there came forth water in great abundance, so that the people and their cattle drank.

"And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron: Because you have not believed me, to sanctify me before the children of Israel, you shall not bring these people into the land which I will give them.

"This is the water of contradiction where the children of Israel strove with words against the Lord and he was sanctified in them," Numbers xx., 7-13.



STONE STAIRS LEADING TO THE SHRINE.

Even in Mohammedan land there are sacred memories of the Christ. While pilgrimages to the great Mussulman shrine in another spot engage hundreds of thousands every year, nevertheless the shrine has for them a holy reverence. The humblest beggar will show devout feeling when asking alms as a compensation for directing the pious Christian toward this great focal point of his religious belief.



ROCK THAT YIELDED WATER WHEN MOSES STRUCK.

"And they chode with Moses and said: Give us water that we may drink. And Moses answered them: Why chide you with me? Wherefore do you tempt the Lord?"

"So the people were thirsty there for want of water and murmured against Moses saying: Why didst thou make us go forth out of Egypt to kill us and our children and our beasts with thirst?" Exodus xvii., 2-3.

"And thou shalt strike the rock and water shall come out of it that the people may drink." Exodus xvii., 6.

